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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 646  
By Bowers

A RESOLUTION urging primary and secondary schools to offer students more calcium-rich foods and beverages in their lunch and snack bar programs.

WHEREAS, calcium deficient diets are clearly associated with many health disorders, including osteoporosis, hypertension, preeclampsia, and colon cancer; and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control, calcium deficient diets are an epidemic in America; over fifty percent of today's children cannot or will not get their recommended daily intake of calcium; and

WHEREAS, bones grow and incorporate calcium most rapidly during the teenage years, and establish approximately ninety percent of adult bone mass by age seventeen, however, only thirteen percent of teenage girls get the calcium necessary to build their bones to peak capacity; and

WHEREAS, the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) recognizes inadequate calcium consumption among children and adolescents to be a growing problem and a serious threat to their later health; and

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WHEREAS, many children do not meet their needs for calcium because calcium-rich foods and beverages are being displaced by other foods and beverages, including soft drinks; and

WHEREAS, children can receive calcium-rich foods and beverages without changing their dietary habits; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby urge primary and secondary schools in this State to offer students more calcium-rich foods and beverages in their lunch and snack bar programs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Department of Education, in conjunction with the United States Department of Agriculture, is instructed to prepare a list of available foods and beverages that are naturally rich in, or fortified with, calcium.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation and transmitted along with the above-referenced list of those calcium-rich foods and beverages, as prepared by the Department of Education, to the Commissioner of the State Department of Education Faye Taylor, the United States Secretary of Agriculture Ann M. Veneman, and to the person(s) responsible for overseeing each school's nutritional program.